(c) whether certain employees of these banks were also found to be involved in such cases; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the action taken/proposed to be taken against those employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demands for Gujarat before finance commission

2626. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demands made by the Gujarat Government before the Finance Commission including the list of projects of national interest and importance;

(b) the total number of projects which need special funds as on date, including Sardar Sarovar Project;

(c) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has considered the demands of Gujarat Government for vital projects; and

(d) if so, the details of project-wise allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) The Finance Commission, constituted under Article 280(1) of the Constitution, is an independent body and not a limb of the Central Government. Further, under Article 280(4) of the Constitution, the Commission determines ist own procedure of work. It is, therefore, not within the purview of the executive powers of the Government of India to go into the working of the Commission.

Setting up of investment bank

2627. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India is planning to set up an investment Bank in the near future;

(b) whether the Bank is planning to set up a custodial services unit within the ambit of the Bank; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (SBI) are holding a licence for opening a security services branch in Bombay. This branch when opened will also provide custodial services.

Seizure of heroin in Delhi

2628. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether about 8 Kgs. of heroin worth around Rs. 8 crore was seized in two separate hauls in New Delhi on February 6, 1994;

(b) if so, the details and circumstances of the seizures; and

(c) whether any network of smugglers was unearthed as a result of the investigations and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) On 4.2.94, the officers of Delhi Police seized 7.880 Kgs of heroin/smack in two separate cases.

No precise valuation of narcotic drugs, which are often of indeterminate chemical strength and composition, and are liable for destruction, is feasible.

In pursuance to a tip off, the officers of Delhi Police intercepted a person driving a two-wheeler. During the search a leather jacket, a coat and an electric mixie containing 880 gms of heroin were seized. The heroin was found packed in 500 small polythene packets.

On 4.2.94, a Police Patrol Party, of Delhi Police while checking suspicious articles at New Delhi Railway Station, recovered one unattended bag. On search 7 Kgs of smack was recovered and seized.

A case has been registered under the NDPS Act. The investigations in both cases are in progress.

Loopholes in Income-Tax Law

2629. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain lacunae in the Income-tax Act highlighted in the report in Patrika of 7th February, 1994 captioned "Loopholes in income-tax law highlighted; and

(b) whether Government have caused a through study in the income-tax and other tax laws to bring out and remove such haradoxical situations and provisions and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rationalization of the tax laws, in order to remove any paradoxical situations or provisions, is an on going process. ..

Inflation and Prices

2630. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation dipped while the prices rose in the last week of January, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED); (a) and (b) The provisional inflation rate as measured by the wholesale price index for all commodities with 1981-82 as base shows that the during the last week of January, 1994 it was managed at the previous week level of 8.19 per cent. During this week the index for primary articles declined by 0.16 per cent in relation to previous week and that of manufactured products increased marginally by 0.08 per cent largely for the reason of increase in price of sugar. The fuel group index registered an increase of 0.52 per cent reflecting upward revision in price of electricity.

राजस्थान में रुग्ण एककों को वित्तीय सहायता

2631. श्री मूलचन्द मीणा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान राजस्थान में रुग्ण एककों को प्रदान की गई वित्तीय सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) राज्य में कितने रुग्ण उद्योग हैं तथा उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;